

With its actions today, the Republican leadership continues its muddle of our Balkan policy. The vast majority of Republicans have already rejected both a declaration of war and a complete withdrawal of our troops, and voted against supporting current troop operations.

However, the Republicans still want to spend twice as much money as requested for Kosovo, thereby surreptitiously busting the budget caps they've pledged to maintain. Ironically, this inflates the cost of the very effort on which they can't figure out their position. Simply being against the President and also claiming 20-20 hindsight on matters of diplomacy is not leadership.

I supported the Democratic substitute, which would eliminate much of the military spending unrelated to Kosovo. It would also have included the necessary emergency funding for the unprecedented hurricane damage in Central America, and provide much needed aid to the American farmer. It is shameful these funds have languished for months without action.

Our troops deserve a bill that is not one dime less than our military obligations require. The American people deserve a bill that is not one dime more.